

Amendment

Applicant: Robin P. Yergenson

Serial No.: 10/044,684

Filed: November 9, 2001

Docket No.: 10012411-1

Title: OBJECT RETENTION IN A ROTATABLE CAROUSEL**REMARKS**

This Amendment modifies the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed herewith. With this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-13 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention. Claims 1-19 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-13, and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Woodruff et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,607,275. Claims 2, 9, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woodruff et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,607,275 in view of Dodd et al. U.S. Patent No. 3,809,263.

With this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 8 have each been amended to clarify that the latching hub is a unitary latching hub. In addition, independent claim 13 has been amended to clarify that the latching hub has a plurality of peripheral surfaces and that the object contacts at least one of the peripheral surfaces of the latching hub.

With respect to the Woodruff et al. and Dodd et al. patents, neither of these patents, individually or in combination, teach or suggest an object retention system as claimed in amended independent claim 1, a method for securing an object in a rotatable carousel as claimed in amended independent claim 8, nor an object retention system as claimed in amended independent claim 13. For example, the Woodruff et al. patent discloses a cartridge holding library 30 including a hub 34 having planar peripheral faces 52 (col. 3, line 64 - col. 4, line 15) with each hub peripheral face having "selectively mountable" thereon a rack holder plate or rack mount 110 for holding cartridge racks 60 (col. 5, lines 56-59). The Examiner considers rack mounts 110 of the Woodruff et al. patent to be part of hub 34. Rack mounts 110 of the Woodruff et al. patent, however, are "selectively" secured on hub 34 (col. 5, lines 61-64). As such, rack mounts 110 of the Woodruff et al. patent are not a unitary structure with hub 34. In addition, cartridge racks 60 of the Woodruff et al. patent contact base plates 112 of rack mounts 110 (see Figs. 4-6). Cartridge racks 60 of the Woodruff et al. patent, however, do not contact peripheral faces 52 of hub 34.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 8, and 13 are each patentably distinct from the Woodruff et al. and Dodd et al. patents and, therefore, are each in

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a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 2-7 further define patentably distinct claim 1, dependent claims 9-12 further define patentably distinct claim 8, and dependent claims 14-19 further define patentably distinct claim 13, Applicant submits that these dependent claims are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 3-8, 10-13, and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and the rejection of claims 2, 9, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 1-19 be allowed.

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In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-19 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment should be directed to either Robert D. Wasson at Telephone No. (360) 212-2338, Facsimile No. (360) 212-3060 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

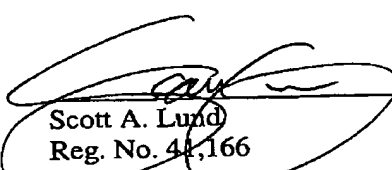
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on this 22ND day of August, 2005.


By _____
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